

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-19 remain in the application. Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Claims 14-19 have been allowed.

In the second paragraph on page 2 of the above-mentioned Office action, claims 1-8 and 11-13 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Martin (US Pat. No. 6,591,162 B1) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

The rejection has been noted and claim 1 has been amended in an effort to even more clearly define the invention of the instant application. More specifically, the feature of claim 9 has been added to claim 1. Since claim 9 contains allowable subject matter as indicated by the Examiner in the second paragraph on page 4 of the Office action, claim 1 is now believed to be allowable. Since claims 2-8 and 11-13 are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

Applicant acknowledges the Examiner's statement in the first paragraph on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 14-19 are allowed.

Applicant also acknowledges the Examiner's statement in the second paragraph on page 4 of the above-mentioned Office action that claims 9-10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The feature of claim 9 has been added to claim 1. Since claim 10 is dependent on allowable claim 1, it is believed to be allowable in dependent form.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-8 and 10-13 are solicited.

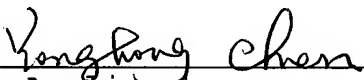
In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Please charge any fees which might be due with respect to 37 CFR Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to

Applic. No.: 10/601,639  
Amdt. Dated November 29, 2004  
Reply to Office action of September 27, 2004

the Deposit Account of Lerner and Greenberg, P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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November 29, 2004

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